

Home Circle.

HOW THE LITTLE KITE LEARNED TO FLY.

BY KATHARINE PYLE.

"I never can do it," the little kite said,
As he looked at the others high over his head;
"I know I should fall if I tried to fly."
"Try," said the big kite, "only try!
Or I fear you will never learn at all."
But the little kite said, "I'm afraid I'll fall."
The big kite nodded; "Ah well, good-by.
I'm off," and he rose toward the tranquil sky.
Then the little kite's paper stirred at the sight.
And trembling he shook himself free for flight;
First whirling and frightened, then braver
grown
Up, up, he rose, through the air, alone,
Till the big kite, looking down, could see
The little one rising steadily.
Then how the little kite thrilled with pride,
As he sailed with the big kite, side by side!
While far below he could see the ground,
And the boys, like small spots, moving round.
They rested high in the quiet air,
And only the birds and the clouds were there.
"Oh, how happy I am!" the little kite cried,
"And all because I was brave, and tried."

CHILDREN'S EYES.

Of all the bodily organs which need watchful care in the period of their development, the eye stands pre-eminent. Yet no organ is so often neglected or abused.

It is no calumny upon the modern school-room, or upon the methods which are employed there, to say that they are in a large measure responsible for the many evidences which we meet of an impaired and defective eyesight among the young, and a premature breaking down of that function with adults.

The close confinement of the student undermines his general health, and so renders every organ liable to succumb under any special strain. Add to this the extra labor required of all the organs of the head, the close application of the eyes to the page before them, and the fact that it is often necessary to continue the studies with the aid of artificial light, and it is plain that school life is full of dangers to the eyesight of the young child.

And if this is not enough to convince us, we may be reminded of the unhygienic surroundings of even the best-appointed schoolhouse, the prevalence of contagious diseases of the eye, and the great liability of infection through the various pernicious habits of the average school child.

No young child should be permitted to pursue his studies to a protracted degree by lamplight. We may turn his eyes from the light, and even provide shades for them, and still they will be affected. It is never necessary, before one's organs are fully developed, to endeavor to prolong the twelve or fifteen hours of daylight.

Instruction to the child as to the manner in which he should hold his book while reading or writing is also essential. This includes not only the proper distance of the page from the face, but the attitude of the body as a whole. It is easy to establish at an early period a predisposition to near-sightedness, and even displacement of the eye ball itself.

In fact, every source of irritation should be avoided, even, if necessary, to a complete withdrawal of the child from his studies.—*Youth's Companion*

YOU WILL NEVER DO IT.

There is many a thing resting upon your mind which you believe to be of importance, and to which you purpose to give attention; and yet you *will never do it*. People seem to know nothing of the flight of time, and before they are aware their time is gone. A Christian worker was persuading a man to seek the Lord, and turn to Christ. The man was afraid he *should not hold out*. He had been thinking of it for some time but hesitated, for fear he should not hold out. The worker inquired how old he was. He was over eighty years old, and still was putting off present repentance and present duty, for fear he might not hold out!

There is nothing perhaps more deceptive than old age. It creeps stealthily and silently along. Day by day men put off things to which they should give attention, till at last, to their amazement, the last day spent, their strength is exhausted, their life is gone, and their work is undone.

If a man has anything that must be done, the sooner it is done the better. If here is anything he fully intends to do, let him do it with his might. If he has business to close up, a will to make, affairs to settle, good works to do, property to dispose of, money to give away, now is the time, the only

certain time. The future is hidden where no angel's eye can pierce it. God deals with us in the present. He bids us act in the present. It is now or never. Make up your mind what you want to do, and do it! Things which you have little interest in or care for can be deferred; but the needful work must be done, and done quickly, for the night cometh wherein no work can be done.

Above all let the great concerns of salvation be attended to. Let not the hours pass by unimproved. Let not the time come when in the bitterness of helpless despair you shall say, "The harvest is passed, and the summer is ended, and we are not saved." "Behold now is the accepted time. Behold to-day is the day of salvation." "To-day if ye will hear his voice harden not your hearts." Whatever else you neglect do not neglect the great salvation. Whatever else you forget do not forget God. Whatever else you postpone, do not postpone repentance, but bring forth fruits meet for repentance, and make ready to stand with the redeemed in the presence of the Lord.

What work are you putting off till it shall be too late?—*The Safeguard*.

SERVING JESUS.

A little bootblack shined a gentleman's boots very nicely, and the gentleman said, "Do you think that will please you?"

"I don't know," replied the boy, "but I think it will please my Father in heaven."

"Poor fellow," said the man, "then your father is dead, is he?"

"Oh, no," said the boy, "I don't mean that. My Father in heaven is God."

"Then," replied the gentleman, "you think that blacking my boots so nicely will please God, your heavenly Father, do you?"

"Yes," said the boy, "I think he is pleased to have us do everything the best we can."

This boy was beginning early to be one of Jesus' followers, and to try to serve him.

He was doing as Jesus did when he was a boy. Do you want to please God by doing the best you know how?